



Legal Frameworks for the Production of Official Statistics

Opening words:

From the Value of official Statistics to the SDG Indicators

Latin America and Caribbean Regional Workshop

3-5 July, Bogotá DC, Colombia



Value of Official Statistics

- Authoritative [decision-making]
- Independent, objective and transparent [trust]
- Highest professional standards and ethics [confidentiality]
- Fitness-for-purpose [user-oriented quality]
- Universal [equal access]
- Flexible and resilient [reliable]
- Efficient and effective [coordinated]





The Journey to the Fundamental Principles



- American Statistical Association's Ethical Guidelines for Statistical Practice adopted in **1979** and last revised 2016
- Declaration on Professional Ethics, International Statistical Institute (ISI), adopted in **1985** and last revised in 2010
- Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, UNECE, adopted by the Conference of European Statisticians in **1991** and at political level in 1992
- United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics (UN-FPs) adopted by the UN Statistical Commission in **1994**
- Code of Good Practice in Statistics for Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC-CoP), adopted in **2011** by the Statistical Conference of the Americas
- CARICOM'S Statistics Code of Practice adopted in **2011** by the Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians
- UN-FPs adopted by the General Assembly in **2014** ([A/RES/68/261](#))



UN-FPs

- Impartiality, objectivity and equal access
- Professional independence, ethics and methodology
- Statistical confidentiality and exclusive use for statistical purposes
- Prevention of misuse and right to comment on erroneous interpretation
- Accountability and transparency
- Sources of official statistics and Non-excessive burden on respondents
- International cooperation and standards
- Relevance, accessibility, accuracy, timeliness and punctuality
- National coordination, coherence and comparability



 **Principles to be enshrined in the national statistical legislation and implemented**



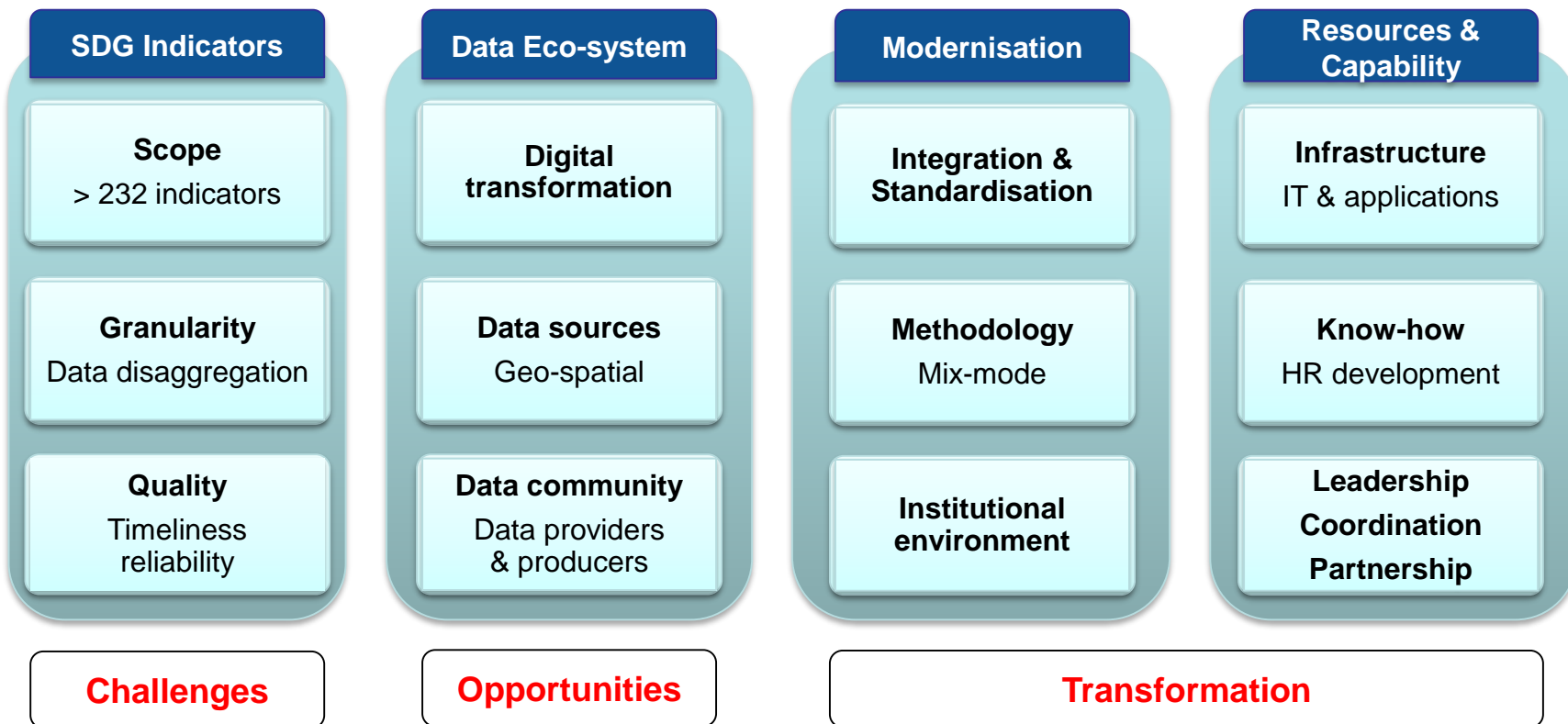
CARICOM'S Statistics Code of Practice

1. Professional independence
2. Mandate for data collection
3. Adequacy of resources
4. Quality commitment
5. Statistical confidentiality
6. Impartiality and objectivity
7. Sound methodology
8. Appropriate statistical procedure
9. Non-excessive burden on respondents
10. Cost effectiveness
11. Relevance
12. Accuracy and reliability
13. Timeliness and punctuality
14. Coherence and comparability
15. Accessibility and clarity

✓ **Code of Good Practice in Statistics for Latin America and the Caribbean and CARICOM's Statistics Code of Practice are operational extensions of the UN-FPs**



SDG Indicators: challenges and opportunities





General Assembly Resolution from 6 July 2017

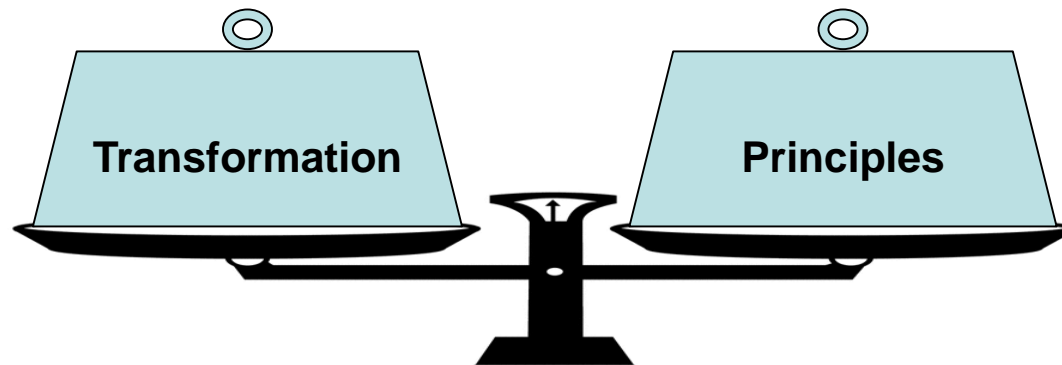
[A/RES/71/313](#)

- Official statistics (data from national statistical system - NSS) constitute the basis for the SDG indicator framework
- All activities of the NSS to be conducted in full adherence to the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics - UNFPs ([A/RES/68/261](#))
- National statistical offices are the coordinator of the NSS
- NSS to explore ways to integrate new data sources into their systems to satisfy new data needs of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- [Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data](#): Framework for discussion, planning, implementation and evaluation of statistical capacity-building for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development



The Law vs. Transformation

- The Law not a “corset” against transformation but to enable modernization while safeguarding the Principles
- Necessity to revise statistical legislations to raise the challenges and grasp the opportunities
- Need to enhance the managerial autonomy of the Chief Statistician





See also: [Generic Law on Official Statistics](#)



For questions and comments:

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Legal Frameworks for the Production of Official Statistics

**Basic Legal Provisions and Good Practices:
*Organization and Governance of NSSs***

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National Law on Official Statistics [the Law]

Main provisions of the Law:

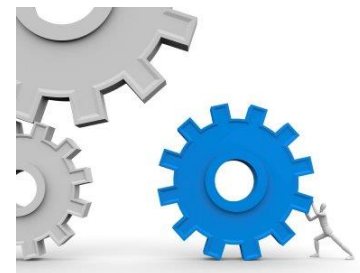
- Delineation of the National Statistical System (NSS) and parties to the Law
- National Statistical Office and other producers
- Chief Statistician
- Statistical Council
- Coordination mechanisms and instruments
- Data sources and confidentiality
- Quality and other important provisions





Delineation of the NSS and other parties to the Law

- All producers of statistics that comply with the provisions of the Law and the Principles:
 - National Statistical Office (main producer)
 - Other producers of official statistics (listed in the statistical programme)
- But the Law also grants rights and imposes obligations on other parties:
 - Users: equal and simultaneous access to statistical releases
 - Respondents: obligation to provide information
 - National and local authorities: obliged to provide, free of charge, data and metadata in their possession
 - Statistical Council: composition, mandate and tasks
 - ...





Chief Statistician

- Highest Statistical Authority and executive manager of the NSO
- Mandate cannot be terminated for any reasons compromising the implementation of the Law and the Principles
- Fosters and monitors the compliance of all producers of official statistics with the Law and the Principles
- Submits to the Government the statistical programmes after consultations with the Statistical Council and other producers
- Issues standards and guidelines for the entire NSS on the development, production and dissemination of official statistics
- Promotes the use of official statistical standards and classifications beyond the NSS (partnerships and dialogue)





Statistical Council

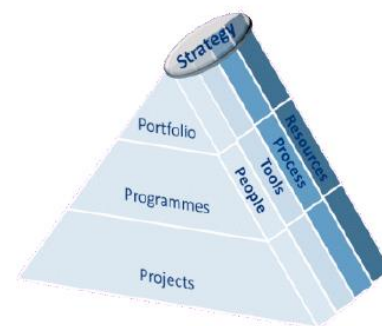


- Main user advisory body (no controlling functions)
- Advises NSS and government - opinions and reports are public
- Allows users to provide input regarding their needs and on implementation of the statistical work programme, including indicators
- Broadly represents user communities (not producers) within and outside the government
- Provides opinion on:
 - Draft (multi-)annual statistical programmes from a user perspective
 - Reports on implementation of the statistical programmes
 - Quality reports



Coordination instruments within the NSS /1

- National statistical programmes are the main coordination instruments of the NSS
- National statistical programmes to be used for the budget appropriation
- The programmes cover the entire NSS, including development, production and dissemination of SDG indicators
- The programmes to be submitted by the Chief Statistician to the relevant government body for approval





Coordination instruments within the NSS ^{1/2}

- Multiannual statistical programme (Master plan, NSDS):
 - strategic development of NSS
 - Vision and priorities
- Annual statistical programme:
 - Programme of work
 - Annual operational translation of multiannual programme
 - List of producers of official statistics and their respective deliveries
 - List of major surveys, and other data sources (administrative), registers



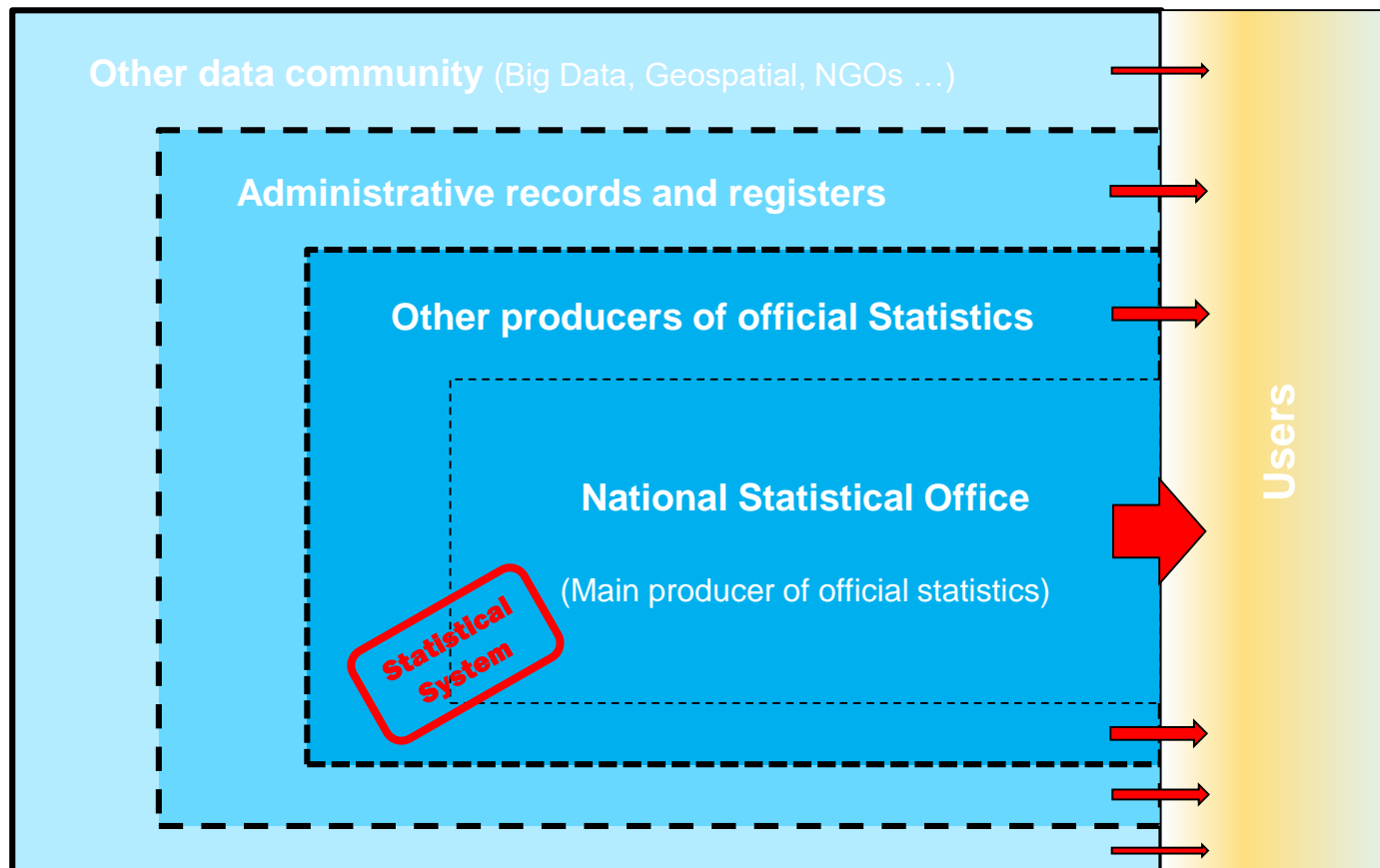


Other coordination mechanisms and tools

- NSS Coordination Committee
 - Advisory committee to the Chief Statistician (producers)
 - Preparation of the statistical programmes before submission to the Statistical Council
 - Discuss data collection and sharing, methodology, guidelines, development of common tools, training programmes...
 - Preparation of international high-level statistical meetings and reports
- Meeting with producers of administrative data and registers
- Meetings with the data community, academia, researchers and other advanced users
- Meeting with the media
- ...



The Data Community





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